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Complaint by Germans Against Governor Spotswood.

(From Virginia State Archives.)

[Governor Alexander Spotswood employed a number of Germans to work in his iron mines, and settled them in 1714, at Germanna, on the borders of Spotsylvania and Orange counties. Col. Byrd, who visited Spotswood in 1732, says he saw at Germanna a baker's dozen of ruinous tenements "where so many German families had dwelt some years ago, but are now removed ten miles higher up, in the Fork of the Rappahannock, to land of their own." Dr. Slaughter ("St. Mark's Parish") says that in 1717 this colony of Germans consisted of one hundred and thirty persons. In a petition to the Bishop of London and the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, they asked that a young German minister be procured for them to succeed their old pastor, Haeger, then seventy-five years old. A notice of this German settlement is to be found in Dr. Slaughter's "History of St. Mark's Parish," 97-105. The document here printed gives a different impression of the relations of Governor Spotswood and his German employees, from that held by Mr. Schuricht, who says that their intercourse was entirely pleasant and peaceful.]

1. In pursuance of the advise of the honorable Major Holloway have wee desired Colonell Spotswood to give us the Copy of the Covenant which wee at our arrival here made with him, but he will not give it. Wee have desired the Justices of Spotsylvania Court to assist us and to be our witnesses that the Colonell will not deliver above mentioned covenant, but they refuse to have anything to do with it, therefore wee humbly ask further advice.

2. Colonell Spotswood hath arested above 25 of us, wee not knowing wherefore we are arested, therefore humbly ask your honour's advice if it is proper to give in a petition to the Gentlemen of the house of burgess* to assist us and order one who might plead for us in forma pauperis.

3. Wee design to go to England and from thence to germany to bring in a Minister for us high germans who are here, do

humbly ask if it is proper to desire the governour to give us an attestation & pasport to witness that we are inhabitants here, the Burgesses from Spotsylvania County know that we are by the rest of our Countrymen sent in that behalf.

Wee who are to go out our names are Michial Cooch, Zerahus Flishman.

THE ACADIANS IN VIRGINIA.

(From a copy of the proceedings in Council—Virginia Archives.)

At a Council held Novem^r 13, 1755.

PRESENT:

The Governor, John Blair, Philip Grymes, Philip Ludwell, Esq., Mr. Commissary, William Byrd, Esq.

His Honour communicated to the Board a letter from the Governor of Nova Scotia dated from Halifax the 11th of August, signifying that by advice of His Majesty's Council it is judged a necessary, and the only practicable measure, to rid themselves of the neutral French there, to divide them among the Colonies, where they may be of some use, and possibly in time become faithful subjects. With a Letter from Mr. Balfour at Hampton, advising of the arrival of two vessels with about 390 of the said French, and that four sail more are hourly expected, who, it is presumed, will bring in upwards of six hundred more.

Upon which the governor desiring the opinion and advice of the Board, in what manner it would be most adviseable to dispose of, and divide them through the several counties, and how they could be subsisted. It was the advice of the Board that his Honor would defer the consideration of so important an Incident till a fuller Council could be assembled. Whereupon the governor acquainted them he would order the Council to be summoned to meet on Thursday next to deliberate upon and determine an affair of such great consequence to this Country.

Copy—Teste:

N. WALTHOE, Cl. Con.